

network

HUMANITIES

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MIGRANT YOUTHS USE VIDEO TO EXPLORE SOCIAL ISSUES

Television series to showcase projects

The fourth piece in a series about CCH's statewide Communities Speak initiative, which uses story to strengthen communities, inspire change,

Mariluz Sanchez and her sister, Puri, both students at Orange Glen High School in Escondido, Calif., knew right away what the topic of their video project would be. Their friend, Jesus Suarez del Solar, a 20-year-old U.S. Marine stationed in

Iraq, had just become one of the first casualties in the war against Saddam Hussein. They would tell his story.

The Sanchez's video, *Un Soldado Mexicano*, looks at Suarez's life through the eyes of his father, Fernando Suarez del Solar, who moved his family to Escondido from Tijuana in 1997 to honor his son's desire to be a Marine.

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Jesús Suarez del Solar, right and below with his wife and son, is featured in *Un Soldado Mexicano*, a *Tu Voz* video about his life. José Espinoza learns how to handle a video camera as a participant in a *Tu Voz* project in Fallbrook, Calif. Photos courtesy of the Media Arts Center San Diego and Nic Paget Clarke



23 NEW STORY-BASED PROJECTS RECEIVE FUNDING

Projects aim to increase understanding of California issues and bring communities together around story

CCH IS PLEASED to announce that 23 projects recently received funding under grant lines connected to California Stories, the Council's multiyear initiative designed to strengthen communities.

Six projects were funded under the California Documentary Project, the media grants component of California Stories that supports film, video, photography and radio projects that record and reveal contemporary California life. And 17 projects received funding under the California Story Fund, the small grants program designed to highlight little-known California stories. All the projects address issues of concern in California today and aim to engage Californians in a variety of story-based activities designed to strengthen communities.

For more information about these and other Council-sponsored projects, please visit our website at www.californiastories.org.

California Documentary Project

FILM AND VIDEO

Romantico

Film Arts Foundation
San Francisco

A documentary portrait of two undocumented Mexican musicians who support themselves and their

families in Mexico by playing *romantica* music for tips in San Francisco restaurants.

We follow Mexican musicians Carmelo and Arturo as they struggle to make a living in San Francisco and intermittently visit their families in Mexico. The film aims to personalize the debate over

Carmelo and Arturo, the two musicians featured in *Romantico*, a documentary funded by CCH under the California Documentary Project. Photo/Mark Becker



U. S. immigration policies and to dramatize the plight of Mexican immigrants.

Grassroots Rising: Asian-American Workers in Los Angeles

Visual Communications
Los Angeles

A one-hour documentary film portrait of low-wage immigrant workers from Asia as they struggle to improve their lives through community-based organizing.

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ACTS OF IMAGINATION

By James Quay, Executive Director



When CCH was developing California Stories, we hoped that the multiyear initiative would encourage people and organizations to use the power of shared stories to build understanding and trust in their communities. We knew from experience that stories could help us imagine the lives of others. What we didn't know was just how imaginative people and organizations would be. This issue

of *Humanities Network* features reports about some of these remarkable California Stories projects.

A year ago, the Council launched Communities Speak, the largest and most far-reaching of our programs under California Stories. As the activities connected to these projects have begun, people have started to take notice. Eighty-one-year-old Kathryn Komure told an interviewer of her life working in the fields of the Central Valley as part of the Stockton Stories project. In the Living on the Dime project, which is unearthing stories along the I-10 corridor in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, Leslie Rios told of the railroad workers, his grandparents among them, who settled in Beaumont. In Northern San Diego County, high school senior José Espinoza told the story of his community of Fallbrook in a five-minute film.

All these stories have significance to the teller, of course, but they also stir the imagination of the interviewer and ultimately of the public as they find their way into exhibits, videos, dramatic presentations or print. Joined by other stories, they take on a collective significance. When history becomes personal, it stirs the imagination. What was it like to be a Japanese field laborer in the 1930s? (What was endured then? What is being endured now?) What were the hopes of the railroad workers for Beaumont? (What happened to them? What remains of those aspira-

tions?) Why should merchants in Fallbrook serve Mexican food in their restaurants? (Who lived in Fallbrook, and who lives there now? What happens when the community responds positively to its youth?)

Although the California Story Fund projects are smaller in scale, the participants in these projects are gathering stories no less diverse and powerful. The 17 projects in the latest group are described in this issue. Nine young activists will be interviewed by ninth graders in Oakland hoping to inspire the students to work for change in their communities. Some 50 community elders, including Mojave tribal elders, are telling their stories through a project in Needles. And survivors of the wildfires in San Diego County are recording dramatic stories documenting a newly shared sense of history and humanity.

We have just learned that *Weather Underground*, a film partly funded by CCH, has been nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary category, making it the 12th CCH-funded film to be so honored. CCH is proud of its history of funding documentary films that tackle issues of national importance. Among those that come to mind are *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* and *Super Chief: The Life and Legacy of Earl Warren*. We're equally proud of those documentaries that tell smaller but no less important stories. One of those is *Juvies*, Leslie Neal's film about juveniles tried and sentenced in adult court. We read the sensationalist publicity in the media about crimes committed by juveniles, but then a film like *Juvies* comes along and shows us the stories of some of those youthful offenders, and suddenly, the issue is much more complex because we have been helped to imagine the lives of these children.

When I think of all the stories and the impact of hearing them, I think of the words of political scientist Benjamin Barber in an essay titled "Serving Democracy by Serving the Arts and the Humanities":

Finally, let me recall that art and democracy share a dependency on one extraordinary human gift, imagination. Imagination is their common link to civil society.... Imagination is the key to diversity, to civic compassion and to commonality. It is the faculty by which we stretch ourselves to include others, expand the compass of our interests to discover common ground, and overcome the limits of our parochial selves to become fit subjects to live in democratic communities.

The imagination we use to tell our stories, and, even more important, the imagination we use to listen to the stories of others, are as vital to democracy as any voters machine. I hope you enjoy the showcase of imaginative projects in this issue.

James Quay

CCH-SPONSORED EVENTS AROUND THE STATE MARCH through JUNE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

I AM OMI HISTORY DAY, SAN FRANCISCO

Saturday, March 27, 2 – 4 p.m.

An afternoon of neighborhood history, stories and a youth-produced video, part of I Am OMI, a San Francisco Communities Speak project using history and story to help a divided neighborhood find a unified voice. Voice of the Pentecost Church, 1970 Ocean Ave. For information, contact Woody LaBounty at woody@outsidelands.org or visit www.outsidelands.org.

Years of Valor, Years of Hope, a California Story Project in Visalia, explores the war years in Tulare county. Bob Pattee, shown here with his mother, spent a furlough during the war with his family in Monson. Photo courtesy of Dallas Pattee.



CALIFORNIA STORIES: A TIME ... A PLACE, SAN FRANCISCO

Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women

Sunday, March 28, 3 p.m.

An original theater piece developed from the stories of formerly incarcerated women. Buriel Clay Theater, African-American Art and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton St. For tickets, call 415/292-1850 or visit www.culturalodyssey.org/season.

POETRY READING, SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Public Library Bernal Heights Branch,

Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Merced Branch,

Wednesday, April 21, 7 p.m.

Third through fifth grade students read poems created with poet Grace Grafton as part of a California Stories project at Lakeshore School. The students' poems are based on interviews with older family members, many of whom are recent immigrants.

YEARS OF VALOR, YEARS OF HOPE, VISALIA

Tulare County Library,

Friday, April 23, 7 p.m.

An evening of story-sharing to preserve memories of the war years in Tulare County. Margaret Allen, president of the Friends of the Library, will interview a Tulare County resident and lead the discussion. For information, contact Judith Wood at the Tulare County Library, Visalia:

559/733-6954, ext. 227, or e-mail Judith.wood@tularecountylibrary.org.

LIKE JACK: MAKING THE BEST OF IT, SAN JOSE and 1942: LUGGAGE FROM HOME TO CAMP, SAN JOSE

The Japanese American Museum of San Jose

Two exhibits connected to separate California Stories Fund projects are currently on display at this San Jose museum. The first, *Like Jack: Making the Best of It*, features drawings by kids from the Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley inspired by work of Jack Matsuoka, a well-known cartoonist interned as a teenager during World War II. Matsuoka's cartoons are also on view. The second, *Flo Oy Wong's suitcase installation, 1942: Luggage From Home to Camp*, illustrates the stories of six former internees using the actual suitcases they took to camp. The museum is at 535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, and is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Admission is free.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

OUR STORIES, GLENDALE

Herbert Hoover High School, through April 5

An exhibit of student-produced artwork and text on the theme of immigration, identity and growing up in Glendale. For information,

contact Alina Mnatsakanian at 818/755-8747 or e-mail alinamn@earthlink.net

REVISITING EAST ADAMS, LOS ANGELES

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

An exhibit of photographs and memorabilia of the East Adams neighborhood during the 1930s, '40s and '50s. *Revisiting East Adams* runs through June 6. In connection with the exhibit, a 30-minute documentary featuring interviews with former residents will be shown at the Historical Society, 415 Bernard St., on Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. For information, visit www.chssc.org.

David Woo and Prisca Woo leave the Chinese Presbyterian Church in East Adams on their wedding day in 1964. Photo courtesy of David Woo. See Revisiting East Adams, this page.



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Tu Voz Video Project

(continued from page 1)

Suarez del Solar senior, who has since publicly spoken out against U.S. involvement in Iraq, talked to the young videomakers shortly after his son's death in March 2003. "Jesus," he said, "joined the Marines because he wanted to save the world from terrorism. He went to fight for an ideal."

Un Soldado Mexico is one of almost 60 videos produced, shot and edited by at-risk youth in San Diego County as part of Tu Voz (Your Voice), a Communities Speak project that provides video training to youth historically neglected and negatively portrayed by the media and then packages the videos for screenings in schools, communities and on television. The project has involved more than 90 youths, many of whom, like the Sanchez sisters, come from migrant families, in a 100-mile area that extends from Santa Ana to San Ysidro.

Media Arts Center Executive Director Ethan van Thillo got the idea for Tu Voz while organizing the San Diego Latino Film Festival. Van Thillo began to realize that although the festival received many entries from young people, most were MTV-like in content and style and few originated in San Diego. Van Thillo, who had worked previously with the migrant community in San Diego, recognized the need to capture the stories of the migrant experience and make them available to a wider community.

Working in collaboration with the Migrant Education Program of the San Diego County Office of Education, the Media Arts Center began holding 12-week, hands-on video production workshops with migrant youths at high schools in North San Diego County. From the outset, the goal of the workshops reached beyond the teaching of video skills. Van Thillo wanted young people to see that they could play a direct role in shaping their communities by using video as a tool for change.

"The workshops give the kids a lot of work-readiness skills," said Van Thillo. "They learn how to use a digital camera, edit on computers, set up lighting and organize their work. But it also lets them see that they have a stake in the com-

munity and can affect what happens there."

Project instructor Ricardo Favela, who has taught the majority of the workshops and comes from a migrant family himself, recalled the class in Escondido that Mariluz and Puri Sanchez attended. "It was at the beginning of the Iraq war, and we talked about the war's impact on the community. And then Mariluz, Puri and a couple of other students were absent from class one day, and it was only later that I learned they had all attended Jesus' funeral. When they came back, they told me they wanted to make a video about Jesus. It was one of three videos that particular class worked on."

Many of the videos tell of harrowing border crossings and other experiences unique to migrants. "One of the things we try to do is get the kids to look at themselves," said Favela. "We typically have them make a life map, write about issues important to them and interview members of their families. Some students are reluctant to discuss their own or their families' experience because it's too painful, but we talk about how important it is to get the stories out so others can understand the migrant community better."

The videos the kids make focus on lighter topics as well. One group filmed people getting on and off the trolley in San Ysidro, with one student asking people questions about where they were going and how they viewed their community, and another group made a video about how to make Mexican food.

Once the workshops are completed, the Migrant Education Program holds community screenings for friends and family. For the students and their families it's a proud moment. "Just putting a video together is such an accomplishment and a great leap for many of the kids," said Project Coordinator Sebastian Hernandez. "They get to interact with people they don't usually meet, see things they don't normally see, and work with the latest video production equipment."

In addition to serving migrant youths, the San Diego Media Arts



A large picture of Marine Lance Cpl. Jesus Suarez del Solar, who died in Iraq almost a year ago, decorates a bulletin board in Kit Carson Park in Escondido during a tree planting ceremony honoring the war dead. Photo/Karen Evenson

Center is reaching beyond that population to African-Americans and other long-term residents through organizations working with those groups. Among those is the MAAC Project, a social service agency that operates several affordable housing complexes in the San Diego area. Workshops are being held for young residents at two MAAC locations.

Now that so many videos have been finished, the Media Arts Center is working furiously to edit them into eight half-hour programs for airing on television and for use in schools and community venues. Two programs have been completed thus far and are ready for screening at this year's San Diego Latino Film Festival.

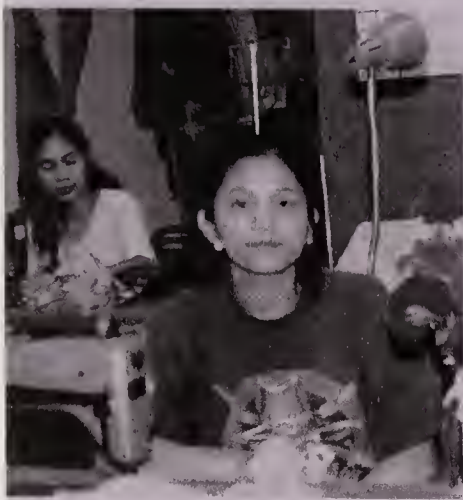
In addition to community access stations, several other stations have expressed interest in airing the

shows. But Van Thillo's and Hernandez' vision for Tu Voz goes beyond television broadcast. They are planning public community screenings to stimulate discussion about the issues and are developing education packets for teachers to use alongside video screenings in the classroom. "We'd like to see the programs become part of the curriculum in local schools" Van Thillo said.

Added Hernandez, "I always think about how much more we could do if had more staff and more funding. But then I look at the impact we have already made on students and what we are beginning to accomplish by getting the work distributed, and I almost feel like we've done something."



Fernando Suarez del Solar, left and center, the father of slain Marine Lance Cpl. Jesus del Solar, plants a tree in memory of his son with the help of Xinaxtili, an Astec dance group, and mixes dirt from Iraq with soil from Escondido and Tijuana, where his son was born. Mariachi singer Mario Balcazar, right, persuaded the town of Vista to donate an ambulance to his hometown in Mexico. His efforts are captured by five young filmmakers in *La Donacion de la Ambulancia*, one of more than 60 videos made as part of the Tu Voz project. Photos/Karen Evenson



Rojana Cheunchujit Sussman, is one of the workers featured in *Grassroots Rising: Asian-American Workers in Los Angeles*, a California Documentary Project film. Photo courtesy of Visual Communications.

Grassroots Rising (continued)

We hear stories from a variety of workers and follow a small group as they try to unionize a Korean-owned market and find allies across ethnic lines in their struggle for fair wages and working conditions.

The documentary uses poetry, art and music as well as archival footage and worker stories to explore the complex reality of Asian-American workers in today's Los Angeles.

White Nights

Bay Area Video Coalition
San Francisco

An examination of the relationship between the Jonestown massacre and the murders of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

Using archival footage and interviews with writers, local historians and others, the film shows how the political alliances of the time and the urban upheaval in San Francisco during the 1970s converged to produce the Jonestown tragedy.

PHOTOGRAPHY

From Where I Am Standing: Photographs and Writings Documenting the Experiences of Latino Youth in Los Angeles, 1995-2005

College of Arts and Letters,
California State University,
Los Angeles

A group of Latino young adults, all participants in a photography and writing project as junior high and high school students, document their lives today through words and photographs.

This is a continuation of a photo-documentary project, begun in 1995 and led by Gail Brown, with some 100 Latino youths in the Los Angeles area.

For this part of the project, Brown will photograph and interview 15 to 20 past workshop participants, now maturing young adults. She will eventually work intensively with a core group of five helping them create artists books about their lives.

Herstory

Migrant Photography Project
Lindsay

A photography project documenting in images and words the lives and work of Mexican migrant women in Central California.

"We know very little of the story of migrant women's origins and their migration and settlement in California," said Project Director Sandra Sturdevant. "What does exist concentrates on men's experience. This project will bring migrant women into our images and existing discourse."

RADIO

The Boomtown Chronicles: Reflections on a Changing California

KUSP 88.9 FM
Santa Cruz

A one-hour radio documentary exploring how four California families on the Central Coast of California are redefining the concept of home and community in an era of widespread change.

Project Director Rachael Anne Goodman said, "We want to look at family stories and cultural traditions that help anchor people to where they live despite the effects of suburban sprawl, and also examine the compromises that new arrivals make in trying to attain the California dream in a region where people must pay half their income on housing."

California Story Fund

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARTChiving Oral History Project

La Raza Galeria Posada
Sacramento

A center for art and culture collects stories about its history

"It was the '60s. Mexican people living in the U.S. had finally said, 'Ya, basta!' It was time to advocate for a brighter future for our children."

Jose Montoya, founding artist,
La Raza Galeria Posada

This project will document the history of the sponsoring organization, La Raza Galeria Posada, and the community of artists, activists, students and scholars in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys who helped make the organization an important statewide resource for Chicano, Latino and Native American art and culture.

Project Director Stephanie Sauer said, "In 2002 we began to document and preserve all the materials we could find about our history. This project will enable us to unearth the stories of the people involved."

The Legacy Continues

Youth Activism Today
Community Works
Berkeley

Ninth-grade students in Oakland document the stories of young Bay Area activists

Tshaka Barrows and Ophelia Williams are co-directors of the Community Justice Network for Youth, an organization that nurtures community-based programs that serve youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Both under

age 30, Barrows and Williams are two of the youth activists that ninth-grade students at Life Academy in Oakland will interview as part of this project honoring young activists whose work makes a difference in the community.

The students will use the interviews as inspiration for poems, stories, drawings and photographs. The project will culminate with a traveling museum exhibit.

Project Director Naomi Katz said, "We hope that in addition to preserving the stories of these extraordinary young individuals that this exhibit will inspire other young people to become politically engaged and work for change in their communities."

Overcoming Faceless Labor

The California-Mexico
Health Initiative
Berkeley

Stories of Mexican immigrant farmworkers are documented

Some 95 percent of California's field workers are immigrants, and of those, 91 percent are Mexican. This project will put a face on the Mexican farmworker population by documenting their lives on film and in story.

Focusing on the Central Valley, folklorist and photographer Almudena Ortiz will interview and photograph men and women who work in the agricultural fields as well as community leaders and organizers. The images and text will be shared with local Mexican communities and exhibited at migrant education program offices and schools.

Project Director Xochitl Castaneda said, "When people are uprooted from their surroundings, they feel isolated and inadequate. The oral histories and photographs of the workers will help validate them and give them and others in the community a sense of collective experience."

Sons, Young Filipino Men Speak

Kulintang Arts Inc.
San Francisco

Young male Filipinos explore their identity

What is it like to grow up Filipino and male in California? This project

seeks to answer that question by using a combination of poetry, spoken word, video, dance and music.

Five Filipino spoken-word artists will participate as storytellers and present their work to the public as part of the United States of Asian American Festival in April 2005 in San Francisco.

"While the Filipino community makes up the largest Asian Pacific Islander group in California, it isn't well known to the larger community and in many ways lacks visibility to itself," said Project Director Alleluia Panis. "This is why the telling of its stories is critical both to its self-image and for broader awareness of its issues."

One of the five families featured in *Generaciones: Three generations of Mexican Women*, at two different times in their lives: left to right, Teresa Solano, her daughter Sandra Jau, and her granddaughter Berenice J. Gil. Photo courtesy of Berenice J. Gil.





Three of the Filipino spoken word artists participating in *Sons, Young Filipino Men Speak*, a California Story Project exploring Filipino identity. Photo/Stella Kalaw

Stories of Courage Korean Women Survivors of Violence

Shimtuh, a project of Korean Community Center of the East Bay Oakland

Immigrant Korean women break their silence

"Three days after our marriage, we were on our honeymoon. We took a long walk up a mountain. When we got to the top, he started to beat me. I asked, 'Why are you beating me?' He said that his friends told him that to train your wife, you should hit her every three days."

A survivor of violence

This project will gather stories from Korean immigrant women who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Project Director Ann Rhee Menzie said, "By sharing these painful stories that have been kept secret for so long, these women are helping to end the isolation that perpetuates violence against women."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Generaciones: Three Generations of Mexican Women Immigrants

Barrio Logan College Institute
San Diego

Three generations of Mexican- American women talk about their lives

This project will document the lives of three generations of Mexican

immigrant women in five families in San Diego.

The stories will be videotaped, and families will be issued digital cameras to document their lives now. The videos will be made into a documentary and screened at the San Diego Museum of Man. The museum will also exhibit the photographs taken by family members.

The goal of the project is to celebrate the similarities and differences among generations and enhance understanding of the immigrant experience in the larger community.

A young Glen Avon resident protests against the presence of a toxic waste dump in her town. Photo from the collection of Penny Newmans. See Glen Avon Stringfellow Commemorative Project, above.



The Glen Avon Stringfellow Commemorative Project

The Center for Community Action
and Environmental Justice
Riverside

A community struggles to overcome an environmental disaster

"Over a five-day period, chemicals flowed through our community — over public roads, flooding our homes and inundating the elementary school just three-quarters of a mile below the site. During the entire time, we were not informed of what was occurring; we assumed that the puddles our children played in and the water our animals stood in was just rainwater runoff."

Penny Newman, resident of Glen Avon and executive director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

This project documents the historic struggle by the Southern California community of Glen Avon to overcome the environmental havoc wreaked on the town by the Stringfellow Acid Pits, a toxic waste site located above the community.

Stories will be gathered from Glen Avon residents as well as lawyers and policy-makers involved in the community's fight.

Project Director Diana Fox said, "We hope that the stories and other activities will highlight the role of residents in helping to change environmental laws and regulations and give people a sense of pride in what they've accomplished."

Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride: Stories from the L.A. Contingent

University of Southern California
Department of Sociology
Los Angeles

Advocates for immigrant rights speak out in Los Angeles

"I work in hotels. I clean hundreds of rooms, but people don't see me. When people think of Filipinos and Asians, they never think about the dirty work we do for them."

Participant in the Immigrant

Freedom riders from Los Angeles, many of whom will tell their stories as part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders project, participate in an immigrants rights rally in Austin Texas. Photo/Belinda C. Lum

Workers Freedom Ride

Nearly 1,000 immigrant workers and community activists took part in the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride during fall 2003, crossing the country in an unprecedented effort to mobilize support for changes in immigration policies.

This project will gather stories from members of the group from Los Angeles.

Project Director Belinda Lum said, "Learning about the stories of people who advocate for immigrants and immigrant rights provides us not only with greater understanding of why people come together, but also how they develop bonds unrelated to geography and race."

In the Shadow of Petco Park

San Diego Public Library
San Diego

Neighbors reveal the impact of gentrification on their lives

The construction of the new San Diego Padres baseball stadium in downtown San Diego and the gentrification of the area is changing the face of the city's downtown. This project will collect stories of people affected by these changes.

Project Director Lynn Whitehouse said, "The local media emphasize the positive side of gentrification. This project will bring attention to how these changes affect people's lives and may help other communities in California deal with this issue."

Needles, California Gateway to California

Friends of El Garces
Needles

A long-neglected community tells its story

As a gateway to California, the city of Needles has been a major contributor to the development of the state. Yet the history of Needles is largely overlooked.

This project will collect stories

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23 NEW STORY-BASED PROJECTS

(continued from page 5)

on videotape and audio tape from members of the community familiar with the city's rich history. The interviews will form the basis of an exhibit to be held at various locations in the community, including the Needles Branch Library.

(Out)Law & Order: The Code of the West Meets the Code of the Street

Center for Civic Education
Calabasas

Middle-school students create plays about how the myths of the West play out in their lives

This project involves roughly 100 students at three middle schools in Los Angeles, where crime and violence are often an issue in the community.

The students will create and perform plays, using as inspiration the legends of Billy the Kid and Jesse James, among others, and cultural ideals of honor, rugged individualism and the right of self-defense.

Project Director Lisa Citron said, "We want the students and their families to think critically about cultural myths, particularly those glorifying the cowboy and outlaw, and to explore how those values are expressed today."

Packed Up, Squeezed Out: The Citrus Industry in Placentia

California State University,
Fullerton Foundation
Fullerton

A readers theater piece tells the story of a now-defunct citrus industry in an Orange County town

The citrus industry has virtually disappeared from the Orange County town of Placentia, but many residents remember its hey-

day in the 1940s and 1950s. This project will collect their stories.

A readers theater script will be developed from interviews with pickers, foremen, packers and grove owners. Students from local high schools will present a reading of the script at a communitywide event in November 2004 and April 2005.

Pacoima Voices

Youth Policy Institute
Los Angeles

Home movies help unify cultures

Changes in Pacoima, a part of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, make for a classic example of those sweeping through California.

Primarily Caucasian until the 1950s, then heavily African-American up to the 1980s, today Pacoima is predominantly Latino and young (more than one-third of its residents are younger than 18).

Pacoima Voices will use home movies as a way to help unify the different cultures in the community.

Residents will be invited to a "family memories" night and asked to bring home movies shot in Pacoima. Once gathered, the Pacoima Voices home movies will be screened at a memory night for Pacoima residents.

The idea is to create a sense of shared history and common identity among the various groups that have lived in the community over the decades.

Restless Spirits

San Diego Repertory Theatre
San Diego

Community stories are used to create an original play

For this project stories will be collected from residents of the eth-

nically diverse communities of San Diego and Tijuana as a basis for the production of a play by Allan Havis.

A varied group of artists, scholars and culture bearers will lead the archival research and interviewing process. One of the main lines of inquiry will be questions about the various legends, myths and traditions that play a role in people's lives.

The stories will be presented to the public as staged readings and open rehearsals of the play in progress. A discussion will follow each open rehearsal, and, based on comments from those present, the playwright will work on subsequent drafts of the play. The play will be produced for the San Diego Repertory Theatre's 2005-06 season.

San Diego Fire Stories: History, Memory, Experience

City of San Diego
Commission for Arts and Culture
San Diego

The role of fire in people's lives is explored

This project will document "fire" stories from people who have experienced and fought fires in the San Diego area.

The stories will be displayed on the city of San Diego's arts and culture website and form the basis of an exhibit at festivals, museums and libraries.

Project Director Jana Fortier said, "Our collective story of fires will help contemporary San Diegans remember and respect humanity's intimate relationship to fire."

Shalom-Salaam

The San Diego State University
Production Center for
Documentary and Drama
San Diego

Conversations between Jewish- and Palestinian-Americans are captured

Every month in the San Diego area, groups of American Jews and

Palestinian-Americans meet in each other's living rooms to share food and talk about the historic divide that has kept their people at war for two generations.

The idea behind these "living room dialogues," instituted by the grassroots movement San Diego Jewish/Palestinian Dialogue, is that when Arabs and Jews come to know each other through hearing each other's stories, they can build a will for peace.

This project seeks to document the dialogue process on film. Project Director Mark Freeman said, "Today in San Diego and across the state, Jews and Palestinians are listening to one another, building relationships and creating models for peace and reconciliation. What we want to capture is the spirit of these living room dialogues in San Diego and bring it to a wider audience."

To All Relations: Sacred Moon Songs

Great Leap
Los Angeles

Stories of persecution, exile and deportation are told by three communities in Los Angeles

This project will collect stories of persecution, exile and deportation from three communities in Los Angeles: Japanese-Americans, Mexican-Americans and American Muslims.

The stories will be gathered in community workshops featuring creative writing, theater and dance exercises. A group of five to seven participants will develop selected stories into performance pieces for presentation in June 2004.

Artistic Director Nobuko Miyamoto, who developed the workshop for gathering stories, said, "All three communities play an integral role in L.A.'s vibrant cultural life, but few opportunities exist for the three groups to hear each other's stories. This project provides that opportunity."

Events around the State

(continued from page 2)

A JOB AND A HOME: ELDERS SPEAK ABOUT SOUTH LOS ANGELES IN THE 1940s - 1960s
Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
Saturday, April 17, 1 pm

A panel of older community members discuss life in South Los Angeles as part of the Communities Speak project From Generation to Generation: Making a Life in South Los Angeles, 1945 - 2005. The Library is located at 6120 S. Vermont Ave. For information, contact Alexis Moreno at 323/759-6063 or visit www.socallib.org.

PLANTING DREAMS, GROWING THE MADISON NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE — A VILLAGE CELEBRATION, PASADENA
Madison School
Wednesday May 26

A multimedia exhibit featuring the stories and photographs of residents involved in revitalizing the Madison Neighborhood Village

opens at the Madison school on May 26. An opening reception will take place in the school library from 5 to 6 p.m. For information, contact Elizabeth Converse at 626/826-7445 or e-mail e.converse@verizon.net.

(OUT)LAW & ORDER: WHERE THE CODE OF THE WEST MEETS THE CODE OF THE STREET, LOS ANGELES
Wednesday, June 2, 7 p.m.

Students at three middle schools in Los Angeles perform plays about the ways that common myths of the West relate to their own lives. Wells Fargo Theater, Autry National Center, Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles. The performance is free but seating is limited, so reservations are suggested. Send an e-mail with your request to lawandorder@yahoo.com.

GATHERING AT THE RIVER, LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles Central Library
Wednesday, June 30, 7 p.m.

This is a Friends of the Los Angeles River storytelling event at

the Central Library. Readings and a panel discussion on living and working by the river will be presented. 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles. For information, visit www.folar.org.

FILMS

The New Americans
PBS miniseries
End of March

A film exploring the lives of immigrants and refugees from the time they leave their homelands through their first years in the U.S. will be broadcast. Check local listings for exact dates and times.

The Weather Underground
Independent Lens, PBS
Tuesday, April 27, 10 p.m.
This documentary, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, is about the rise and fall of the radical organization that waged a low-level war against the U.S. government through much of the 1970s.

Juvies
The First Artist Film Festival,
Los Angeles
Egyptian Theater
End of April

Leslie Neal's moving film portrays juvenile offenders tried and sentenced in adult court. The festival takes place from Thursday, April 22 through Tuesday, April 27 at the Egyptian Theater in the heart of Hollywood. For exact date and time of the *Juvies* showing, visit www.artistfilmfestival.org/tickets.html.

A 1969 police mug shot of Bernardine Dohrn, former member of the Weather Underground. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Historical Society



SIX APPOINTED TO CCH BOARD

CCH is pleased to announce the appointment of the following six people to the Board of Directors: Joan Klein Jacobs, David Johnson, Hillary Mendelsohn, Tritia Toyota, Laura Wasserman and Daphna Edwards Ziman.

"I am delighted to welcome this impressive group to our already distinguished board and look forward to working with them as we move into the next phase of California Stories," said CCH Executive Director Jim Quay.

Joan Klein Jacobs was born in New York City and holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University. Since moving to La Jolla, Calif., in 1966, she has been active in many cultural and arts organizations.

Currently she serves on the board of the La Jolla Playhouse, is vice chair of the UC San Diego Foundation, sits on the Accession Committee of San Diego's Museum of Contemporary Art, is a member of the Public Art Committee of the city of San Diego's Commission for Arts and Culture, and is chairwoman of the San Diego Symphony Foundation.

She also serves as a member of the advisory board of City National Bank and is vice president of the executive committee of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego County.

She is married to Irwin Mark Jacobs, chief executive officer of Qualcomm Inc., and has four children and 10 grandchildren.

David Johnson is a private investor in early-stage companies. He is a founder of the Johnson-Roessler Company and is on the boards of the Santa Barbara Technology Group LLC, a holding company for technology companies, and Agility Capital LLC, a bridge fund affiliate of Sand Hill Capital.

Previously Johnson was senior executive vice president of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. Before that, he was a partner at the law firm White & Case.

He is on the boards of Children Now, a child policy and advocacy organization; the Dream Foundation, a national wish-granting organization for the terminally ill; the Los Angeles Mentoring Partnership, an

advocacy, recruitment and training organization; Public Counsel, the nation's largest public interest law firm; and the American Red Cross of Los Angeles.

Johnson is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School.

Hillary Mendelsohn is executive director of FLASH: A California Partnership for Safety and Preparedness, an alliance of public and private partnerships focusing on teaching safety and preparedness to Californians.

In addition to her work with FLASH, Mendelsohn is the author of the recently released *thepurple-book*, a guide to online shopping, and president of Poetic Licensing LLC, a merchandising and licensing consulting firm for film and television properties.

Mendelsohn is a graduate of UCLA. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

Tritia Toyota is an award-winning broadcast journalist with more than 25 years of experience in the news business in Los Angeles. Her awards include an Emmy, a Golden Mike and Associated Press honors for excellence in news coverage.

Toyota co-founded the Asian American Journalists Association and is a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Alumni Association at UCLA. She has been recognized and honored by the California State Legislature, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission and the Los Angeles City Council.

Toyota holds a master's degree in journalism from UCLA and is currently pursuing a doctorate in anthropology, also at UCLA.

Laura Wasserman is a partner and co-president of WH Entertain-

ment, a Los Angeles-based music supervision company. She has developed dozens of soundtracks, including *The Full Monty*, which won an Academy Award for best score in the musical or comedy category, and *Moulin Rouge*, which was nominated for a Grammy for best soundtrack and a Golden Globe for best song.

Prior to founding WH Entertainment, Wasserman served as senior vice president of Fox Music. In that position, she oversaw music supervision for some of the studio's most recognized films, including *Hope Floats*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Dr. Doolittle*.

Wasserman is on the board of the Los Angeles Zoo and has served as a judge for LA's Best, an after-school enrichment program. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from UC Berkeley and resides in Los Angeles with her husband and newborn son.

Daphna Edwards Ziman is founder and chairwoman of Children Uniting Nations, an organization created to elevate the welfare of children to the forefront of the world's consciousness. She serves as chairwoman of ABC LOVE (Adoption Brings Children Love), is on the board of HIPPY (Home Instruction for Pre-School Young-

sters) and serves on the executive board of the Woman's Leadership Forum, which is dedicated to bringing women into the political arena.

Ziman has received a number of honors for her work, including the Jacqueline Kennedy Award from JFK University, the Women of Achievement Award from the North American Council for Adoptable Children, and the Uniting Children of the World Award from the Child Welfare League of America.

Ziman is president of the independent film and television production company Edwards Entertainment International, where she wears three hats — as writer, producer and director.

New Board members, clockwise from top: Hilary Mendelsohn, Tritia Toyota, Laura Wasserman, David Johnson, Daphna Edwards Ziman and Joan Klein Jacobs.



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Who We Are

The mission of the California Council for the Humanities is to enrich California’s cultural life and to strengthen communities through public use of the humanities.

The Council is an independent, not-for-profit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities supported through a public-private partnership that includes funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations and corporations. The Council also receives essential support from individuals.

To learn more about the Council and how you can participate in its programs, please visit us online at www.californiastories.org.

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